

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 180399

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM NEA/ARN - DRAPER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, LE

SUBJECT: CALL BY MUNIR ABU HAIDAR

REF: BEIRUT 3572

1. AMB. KABBANI AND TMA'S ATTORNEYS CALLED ON BROWN OF AVIATION DIVISION LAST WEEK TO SEEK DELAY IN PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL OF CAB REPORT. THEY HAD ASKED THAT SOMEONE FROM THE POLITICAL SIDE OF THE DEPARTMENT BE PRESENT. LARRY POPE AND I WERE THERE.

2. AMB. AND LAWYERS WERE PLEASED WITH BROWN'S EXPLANATION THAT WE HAD PROPOSED NEW DATES FOR NEGOTIATIONS AND THAT RECOMMENDATION HAD BEEN MADE TO THE PRESIDENT BY THE DEPARTMENT THAT APPROVAL OF THE CAB REPORT BE HELD IN ABEYANCE. BROWN ALSO MADE CLEAR--POLITELY BUT FIRMLY-- THAT IT WAS PROBABLY A MISCALCULATION ON THE PART OF TMA

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TO HOPE THAT THEY WOULD GET A BETTER DEAL OUT OF THE CAB REVIEW THAN THEY HAD BEEN OFFERED DURING NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE DEPARTMENT. BROWN ALSO MADE CLEAR THERE WAS VIRTUALLY NO CHANCE OF REVIVING THE TRANS-PACIFIC EAST-BOUND FLIGHTS, OWING TO THE INDUSTRY'S MEMORIES OF HAVING HAD THIS CONCESSION EXTRACTED UNDER DURESS.

3. NAT AND I HAVE REVIEWED THIS TMA MESS OVER AND OVER,
AND WE BOTH ARE CONVINCED THAT DEPT NEGOTIATORS OFFERED
THE MAXIMUM THE TRAFFIC WOULD BEAR AND EVEN THIS MIGHT
NOT SURVIVE A CAB REVIEW, AS LATEST REPORT MAKES CLEAR.
HAVING BEEN INVOLVED DEEPLY IN JORDANIAN-SYRIAN CIVIL
AIR NEGOTIATIONS, I HAVE SOME APPRECIATION FOR WHAT CAN
BE ACHIEVED AND WHAT IT TAKES TO GET EVEN THE MINIMUM. CHRISTOPHER

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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